

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS), Hamilton and Middletown regional campuses

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/REQUEST

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for baccalaureate degrees. No concerns were identified in the review.

Request and Academic Control: Miami University requests approval for a Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS) degree for delivery at the Hamilton and Middletown regional campuses. The proposed degree is designed for students who have completed an associate degree prior to pursuing a bachelor's degree. Students will be able, through the oversight of the university and appropriate academic guidance, to pursue coursework from multiple fields of study combined with specifically designed integrative seminars.

Academic oversight for the program will be with the Regional Campus Curriculum Coordinating Council (RCCCC). The RCCCC comprises the academic deans of the regional campuses and additional regional campus faculty, representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences and other divisions including the divisional curriculum committee and advising services. The RCCCC will be responsible for proposing new courses and concentrations to the degree, reviewing and revising curriculum, approving changes in requirements and hearing student appeals. The RCCCC will also review the educational plans of students and approve concentrations. Concentrations will ultimately be approved by the University Curriculum Committee and will follow the normal approval process.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Bachelor of Integrative Studies is designed to provide a degree-completion option for students who are not able, for various reasons including work and family needs, to complete baccalaureate programs at the main Miami University campus and who increasingly need the additional degree opportunity to progress in the workforce. The Miami and Hamilton regional campuses currently offer two baccalaureate degree completions: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Engineering Technology. These are highly specialized programs and serve approximately 400 students of the 4500 enrolled at the two campuses. Additional demand exists for baccalaureate degree completion, especially in the regional of southwest Ohio served by Miami University's Hamilton and Middletown regional campuses. The percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees in the counties served by these campuses is quite low. Miami University Hamilton and Middletown graduate significant numbers of associate degree students. Most of these students, however, do not continue on to the main campus to complete their degree – often as a result of family and work

requirements, or in response to the traditional format and schedule of the Miami Oxford campus.

Enrollments: Miami University anticipates an average annual enrollment of 100 students per campus after four years. Enrollments for the first year of the program are projected at 60-75 per regional campus. In addition to serving its own students, Miami University is currently developing articulation agreements with local community colleges (Sinclair Community College and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College) for selected degree concentrations as a means of further increasing access to bachelor's degrees in southwest Ohio.

Curriculum: The proposed Bachelor of Integrative Studies (BIS) is a minimum of 128 semester hours. In addition to general University requirements (GPA, residency credit requirements), students must complete the Miami Plan for Liberal Education requirements as part of the bachelor's program, either through their previous associate degree study or as part of the bachelor's degree requirements separate from other requirements of the BIS. Miami University has created three "integrative studies" courses for students in the program. These required courses provide a forum for integrating the knowledge and skills developed through the student's program.

Students must earn an associate's degree prior to completing the requirements of the degree program. In addition to the Miami Plan Thematic Sequence of Courses (9 hours), the students must complete the Integrative Studies Courses (9 hours), courses in Intercultural Perspectives or courses in foreign languages, 21st Century Literacies Courses (technology, technical writing, statistics, information studies), a minimum of 15 hours in a concentration (Applied Sociology, Contemporary American Experience, Environmental Studies, Families, Gender and Society, Information Technology, Organizational Skills for Leadership, Understanding Media and Visual Culture), and nine hours from a second concentration (or a second Miami Plan Thematic sequence or individually designed and approved concentration).

Resource/Faculty Needs: One new faculty member will be added at each campus to support the program. In addition, existing faculty and campus instructional resources have sufficient capacity to support the program.